to state:

(a) whether a proposal for merging all the six industrial units of Bharat Yantra Nigam Limited {BYNL), Allahabad, is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the justification of the tender published for selling the Bharat Pumps and Compressor Ltd. (BPCL), Naini, Allahabad, a subsidiary company of Bharat Yantra Nigam Limited?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The Department Related Parliamentary Standing committee, in its 44th report, had suggested a merger of the six subsidiaries of BYNL so as to leverage their combined strength since the holding company had not proved efficacious. With a view to improve the performance of these companies, the proposal for merger is one of the options of restructuring being considered.

(c) As a part of restructuring strategy, Government 'in principle* have taken a decision to convert Bharat Pumps and Compressors Limited (BPCL), a BIFR referred sick PSU, into a joint venture company. The joint venture partner would be expected to provide modern technology, managerial inputs, finances and market support to the Company and this may help strengthen the company.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Disinvestment of PSUs during 2001-2002

3944. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified certain public sector units for disinvestment during 2001-2002 financial year;

(b) if so, the details of such PSUs; and

(c) the steps taken for the disinvestment of those PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As announced by the Finance Minister in his Budget speech for the year 2001-2002, disinvestment/strategic sales in 27 companies is expected to be completed during 2001-2002. These companies are: Air India, CMC Ltd, Hindustan Copper Ltd., (Phase I), Hindustan Insecticides Ltd., Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd., Hindustan Zinc Ltd., Indian Airlines, IBP Ltd., Indian Petrochemicals Corpn. Ltd. Indian Tourism Development Corpn. Ltd., Madras Fertilizers Ltd., Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation Ltd., National Fertilizers Ltd., Paradcep Phosphates Ltd., Sponge Iron India Ltd., State Trading Corpn. Ltd., Bharat Pumps, and Compressors Ltd., Hindustan Cables Ltd., Instrumentation Ltd., ITDC Joint Ventures, Jessop and Co. Ltd., NEPA Ltd., Scooters India Ltd., Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd., Videsh Sanchar Nigatn Ltd., Praga Tools Ltd., & Bharat Brakes and Valves Ltd. In addition, disinvestment / rights issue / strategic sales have also been initiated in HTL, NIDC, Maruti Udyog Ltd., Bharat Heavy Plates & Vessels and Hindustan Salts. While Advisors have been appointed in all but four cases, steps /other follow up actions in terms of the established and transparent procedure have been taken in all these cases, which are in different stages of consideration.

Disinvestment in Tourism Industry especially in North-Eastern States

3945. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how far the disinvestment can be extended to PSUs relating to tourism industry in the country especially in the North-Eastern States;

(b) whether the disinvestment can be extended to the private sector also; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Disinvestment is being considered and carried out in various Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs), on an ongoing basis, in accordance with the